



In Case of Emergency....

Monthly Newsletter of the Utah Division of Comprehensive Emergency Management

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CEM DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE FOR 2002

The events of the past year are difficult to put into words. We received a wake up call in many aspects of our lives. Professionally, we have cause to review what we have done in the past and improve the plans for the future. Emergency management's role in the community and the state has taken on a new significance and will not be the same.

Homeland Security is a household word and the Governor even established the office of Homeland Security within CEM. This year, after the Olympics, I see a continuing focus on our Homeland Security.

I see a return to regular business in CEM that may start with our name changing to the Division of Emergency Services and Homeland Security. Try to figure out an acronym for that. I see myself hitting the road to visit each of you at the local level to determine your needs.

When we look back at the conclusion of 2002, I hope to find we have served you better and our level of planning and preparedness has reached down to each community and to each individual family.

—Scott Behunin, Director
Comprehensive Emergency Management

PARKING AT THE CAPITOL COMPLEX

Parking at the Capitol complex is now restricted. For January, CEM employees will be allowed to park only in specifically designated stalls in lot "A", the northeast lot, with an identification tag hanging on the rearview mirror.

Visitors to CEM and any other public persons will be allowed to park in lot "G", the northwest lot or on any of the streets directly surrounding the complex. In the event of an emergency or disaster, additional parking will be made available to those required to be at the state EOC.

Those illegally parked vehicles (no hanging tag, employees in public lots, wrong lot parking) will be either towed or "booted" by the dignitary protection bureau. The best way to arrive on Capitol Hill is to plan ahead and use carpools or mass transportation.

HOMELAND SECURITY ALERT

In preparation for the 2002 Winter Olympic Games and in view of the recent terrorist attacks against the United States, the cooperation of all Utah citizens and visitors is requested in helping safeguard our communities from future events. Here is what you can do to help:

Be alert! Promptly **CAUTION** report criminal or suspicious activity to your local law enforcement agency. Watch for unauthorized persons loitering around public buildings or taking inappropriate photos of active security measures at the site. Look for employees or public officials who appear to be under the control of other persons, such as kidnappings in progress. Also watch for persons without authorized credentials who ask detailed questions about a critical facility, or the security in that area.

Most important: if you see something highly dangerous or you become suspicious of possible illegal or terrorist-related activity, please call 911 for immediate response. For additional information or concerns, contact the office of Homeland Security at 1-866-4-SECURE (toll free 1-866-473-2873).

OLYMPIC PINS FOR SALE

The games are only a few weeks away! So don't hesitate to get your "collector" CEM Olympic pins. There were only 2002 created, so act now. Be the first on your block to own one. Trade them with your friends. Great for parties. Call now: 538-3400. Operators are standing by. Only \$6.00 each: two for \$12.00.



JOE FLETCHER RETIRING

The end of this month will mark the retirement of Joe Fletcher, CEM's information resource management coordinator. Joe has been with CEM since 1990. We wish him good luck and fortune in his future. He will be missed.

NATURE-SAFE UTAH

Nature-Safe Utah is Utah's pre-disaster mitigation program, meeting the needs of the times and keeping abreast of the mitigation emphases in Congress. The program brings many state and federal mitigation programs, such as disaster resistance and prevention, to the assistance of local governments.

The heart of Nature-Safe Utah is the Utah Interagency Technical Team (IAT). The IAT consists of government technical experts in Utah natural hazards. The team has been assisting Utah communities for the past 13 years. The IAT selects communities in need of projects to reduce risk from any of Utah's major hazards. They also establish private and public-sector partnerships, develop a Utah Risk Database and local hazard mitigation plans and interface with FEMA's Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 Pre-Disaster Hazard Mitigation Program.

Another part of Nature-Safe Utah is the Local Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee, which was created through the Division of Comprehensive Emergency Management. Their purpose is to work in preparing local hazard mitigation plans to qualify for federal mitigation funds following a Presidential Disaster Declaration.

To participate in Nature-Safe Utah, your community must assist develop the State Risk Database, which helps the committee understand how much vulnerability exists across the state and how it can be reduced. Participating communities should develop a local hazard mitigation plan and contact the State Hazard Mitigation Officer: Fred May, Ph.D. at 538-3400

CANNED FOOD DRIVE AND TOYS FOR TOTS UPDATE

Since November 2001 CEM collected new toys and clothes for "Toys for Tots" that were donated to the Christmas Box House in Salt Lake City on Dec. 21.

The Christmas Box House serves as a one-stop assessment center for abused and neglected children ages 0-11. The children who go there receive mental, emotional, and physical help under the roof of loving and caring staff members. During their stay, they participate in such programs such as recreational therapy and the STAR Program, which is a behavior reward program to



Toys collected for the Christmas Box house.

encourage positive behavior. Children stay there until an appropriate placement has been set up, or until their environment at home is safe.



Darrin Williams & Megan Shaw with donated food items at the Utah Food Bank.

CEM also participated in a food drive. Cans and non-perishable items were collected in November for Thanksgiving. But the drive was continued through December. Three boxes of various items were collected and donated to the Utah Food Bank. We would like to thank everyone who donated anything during the holiday season.

RUNDQUIST RULES

For many years DPS and CEM leaders have been discussing the possibility of improving the delivery of CEM services to Utah's more rural counties. This past summer, DPS Commissioners along with CEM Director Scott Behunin and Deputy Director Michael Kuehn established a Regional Office to serve the southern portion of the state.

CEM Regional coordinators, who actually reside in designated regions of the state, become much more familiar with the needs of their assigned counties. The first coordinator in southern Utah is Dr. Stephen Rundquist.



CEM's Southern Utah Regional Office opened for business on July 2, 2001. It is located within the Washington County EOC in St. George. Dr. Rundquist is in his twelfth year with the Division of Comprehensive Emergency Management. For the past ten years he has served as the director of CEM's Training and Exercise Programs. Steve has been assigned to work with the County Emergency Program Managers of eleven counties and the Paiute Tribe, stretching from Millard County in the West to Grand and San Juan Counties in the east, and all the others southward. The only exception is Wayne County, which will continue to be served by a County Liaison Officer working out of CEM headquarters at the State Capitol Building in Salt Lake City. For more information on the Regional Coordinator, contact CEMNEWS or Dr. Rundquist in St. George at 435-652-5893.



Darrin Williams & Megan Shaw with Thelma Grant of Salt Lake County Youth Services at the Christmas Box house.